

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A method of managing performance of a grid job on a grid computer of a computing grid, comprising:
 - creating a file of at least one job performance factor governing performance of grid jobs on a particular grid computer;
 - assigning a grid job to a grid computer based upon the at least one job performance factor in the file; and
 - performing the grid job on the grid computer in conformance with each job performance factor for the grid computer;wherein the at least one job performance factor in the file includes a level of security of job performance on the grid computer relative to other grid computers of the computing grid; and
~~wherein the level of security includes a type of access permitted to the grid computer~~
wherein creating the file additionally comprises including at least one local operating condition for the grid computer in the file, and wherein the at least one local operating condition included in the file comprises an indication of at least one time period of optimal electricity rate for operating the grid computer.
2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein creating the file of at least one job performance factor includes storing the file on the grid computer to which the job performance factors apply.
3. (original) The method of claim 1 additionally including reporting the file of the at least one job performance factor to a grid manager that assigns grid jobs to grid computers of the computing grid.

4. (original) The method of claim 1 additionally accessing the file of at least one job performance factor of one of the grid computers before assigning a grid job to the grid computer.

5. (cancelled)

6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one job performance factor includes an amount of processor time utilization to reserve for processing local jobs on the grid computer.

7. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one job performance factor includes an operating time window for performing grid jobs on the grid computer.

8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one job performance factor for one of the grid computers is different than at least one job performance factor for another one of the grid computers.

9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~wherein creating the file additionally comprises including at least one local operating condition for the grid computer in the file, and~~ wherein the at least one local operating condition recorded in the file comprises an indication of any virus alerts for the grid computer.

11. (currently amended) A method of monitoring status of a grid job on a computing grid including at least two grid computers, comprising
forming a grid job by a grid manager for being performed by at least one grid computer;

creating a job performance file based on the grid job, wherein the job performance file includes at least one milestone to be reached in performing the grid job before completion; and

sending, by the grid manager, the job performance file with the grid job to one of the grid computers; and

reporting to the grid manager by the grid computer when each milestone is reached.

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~11~~¹² wherein the job performance file includes at least one expected time period for each milestone in which the milestone is expected to be achieved.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~11~~¹² additionally including dividing a data set for the grid job into at least two portions, sending a first portion of a data set with the grid job to one of the grid computers for being processed on the grid computer, and sending a second portion of the data to the grid computer when the grid computer reports the achievement of one of the milestones.

15. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the job performance file includes at least one deadline for reporting status of the performance of the grid job to a grid manager, and additionally including reporting to the grid manager by the grid computer when each deadline is reached.

16. (original) The method of claim 15 additionally including assigning the grid job to at least one other grid computer if the grid computer does not report to the grid manager by the at least one deadline.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the job performance file includes at least one ~~milestone to be reached in performing the grid job before completion~~ and at least one deadline for reporting status of the performance of the grid job to the grid manager, and additionally including reporting to the[[a]] grid manager by the grid computer when each deadline occurs regardless of whether the at least one milestone has been reached.

18. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the job performance file includes a relative priority for performing the grid job, and additionally including performing by the grid computer a grid job having a relatively higher priority before a grid job having a relatively lower priority.

19. (original) The method of claim 13 wherein reporting to the grid manager additionally includes initiating a network connection between the grid computer and a grid manager computer when a network connection is not active and transmitting the report over the network connection.

20. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~11~~12 wherein reporting to the grid manager additionally includes reporting a level of availability of resources of the grid computer to the grid manager.

21. (cancelled)

22. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one time period of optimal electricity rate for operating the grid computer is at least one time period of optimal cost of electricity for operating the grid computer.